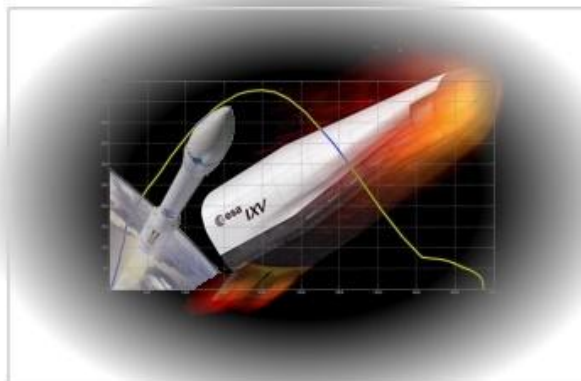


# MISSION ANALYSIS AND FLIGHT MECHANICS OF EARTH EXPERIMENTAL MISSIONS

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**Davide Bonetti**  
**Cristina Parigini**  
**Jorge Serna**  
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DEIMOS Space, Spain

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Thales Alenia Space, Italy

**Speaker:**  
**Rodrigo Haya**  
DEIMOS Space



- **Motivation and Objective**
- **Earth Experimental Missions**
- **The RADFLIGHT demonstrator**
- **The BLAST demonstrator**
- **The IXV demonstrator**
- **Conclusions**

## • Project Motivations

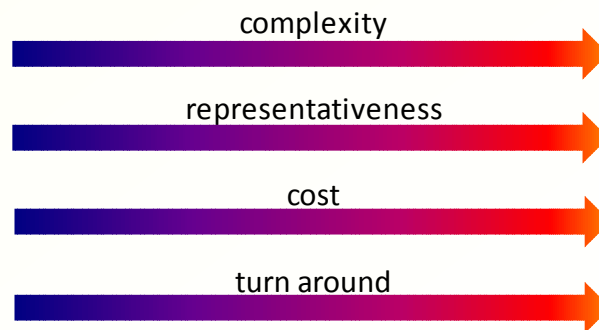
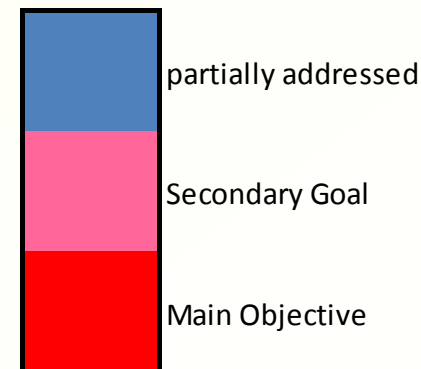
- In the European context, several experimental missions have been planned to improve the knowledge of hypersonic systems. The general aim is to increase the safety of the future re-entry or planetary probe missions and optimize designs by reducing margins
- From a planetary probe perspective, those Earth missions are enablers of EDL technologies needed for future missions
- The Mission analysis and Flight Mechanics of an experimental mission plays a key role to assess the feasibility of the mission and to advance the expected benefits before entering in detailed definition phases.
- DEIMOS Space is responsible for the Mission Analysis, Flight Mechanics and GNC for several of those experimental vehicles

## • Presentation Objectives

- Present the Mission Analysis and Flight Mechanics of the RADFLIGHT, BLAST and IXV mission

# Experimentation Objectives

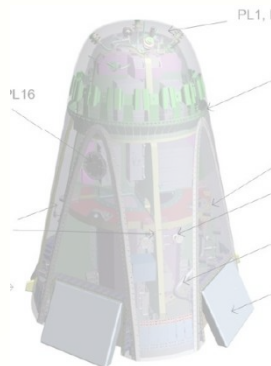
	In-Flight research	Experimental demonstrators	Full scale vehicle
Increase knowledge of fundamental phenomena	Main Objective	partially addressed	
Validation of design methods and tools	Secondary Goal		
Increase the TRL of critical EDL technologies	partially addressed	Main Objective	partially addressed
Demonstration of System Design and Operations		Secondary Goal	Main Objective
Flight envelope clearance			Main Objective



# Experimental Missions Overview

## In Flight Research

### LEO Speed

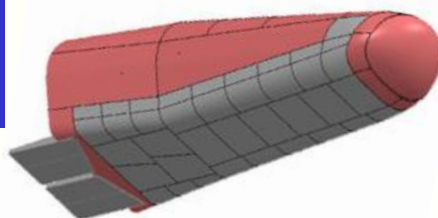


#### EXPERT

5 km/s  
1.6 L  
450 kg  
Ballistic

pre-launch  
(2011 launch)

## Experimental demonstrators

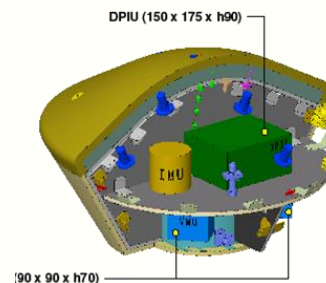


#### IXV

7.5 km/s  
5 m L  
1.9 Ton  
Full GNC

CDR passed  
(2014 launch)

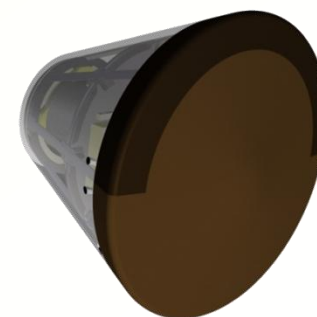
### High Speed



#### RADFLIGHT

11 km/s  
0.7 m  $\phi$   
40 kg  
Ballistic

Phase A



#### BLAST

10.9 km/s  
1.5 m  $\phi$   
460 kg  
Full GNC

Phase A

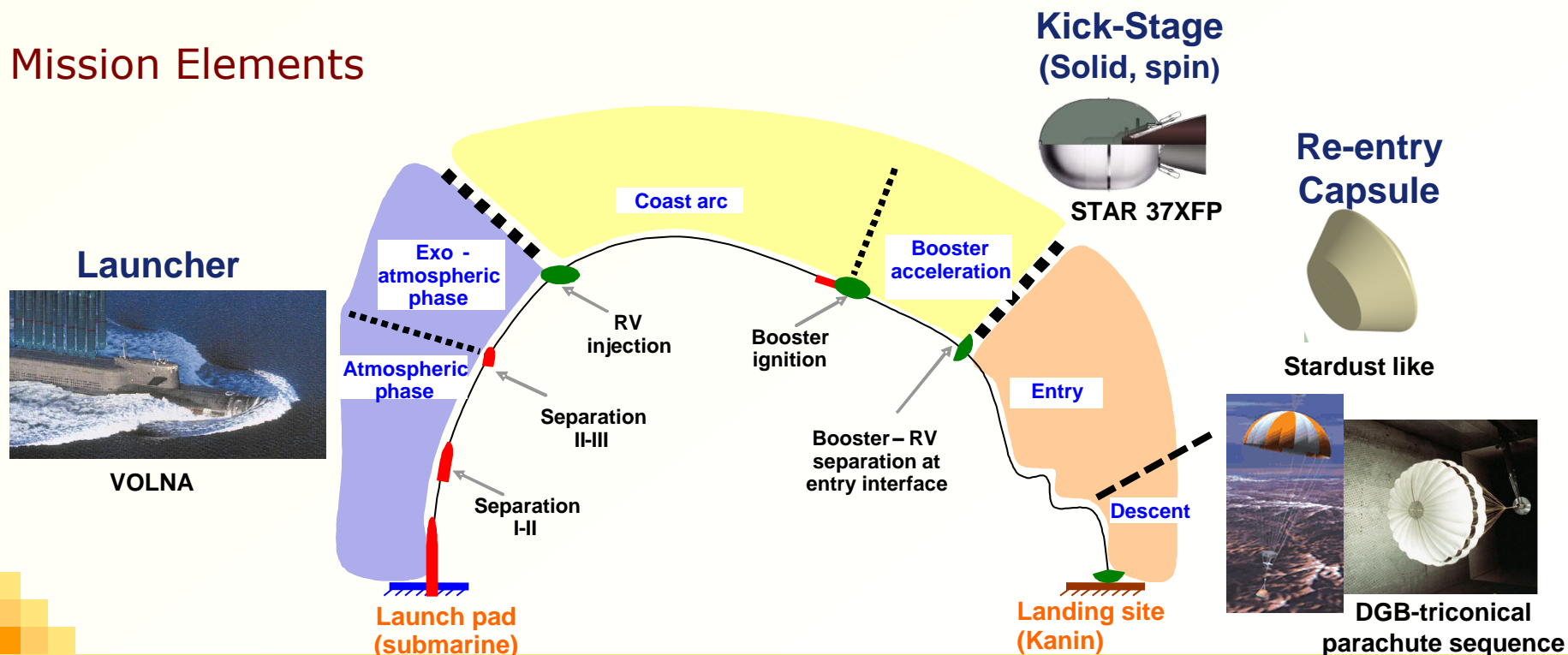
Credits:TASI

# RADFLIGHT: Mission Overview

## Main mission objectives are:

- Improve the limited knowledge on radiation process, radiation/ablation coupling and transition to turbulence
- Reduction of the large margins in TPS sizing for high speed re-entry
  - Validation of physical modeling within numerical tools
  - Use of plasma wind tunnel for flight extrapolation and scaling

## Mission Elements



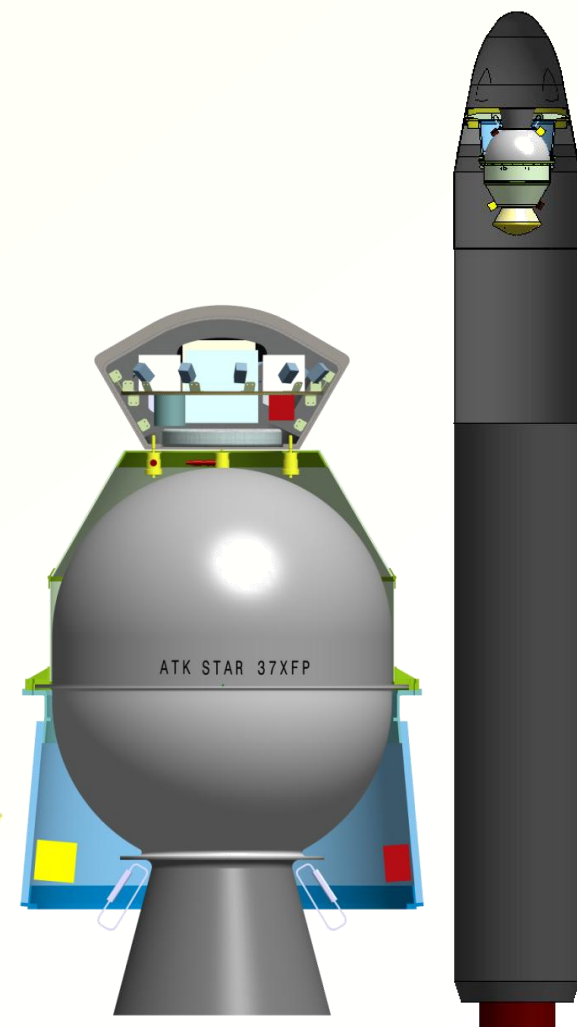
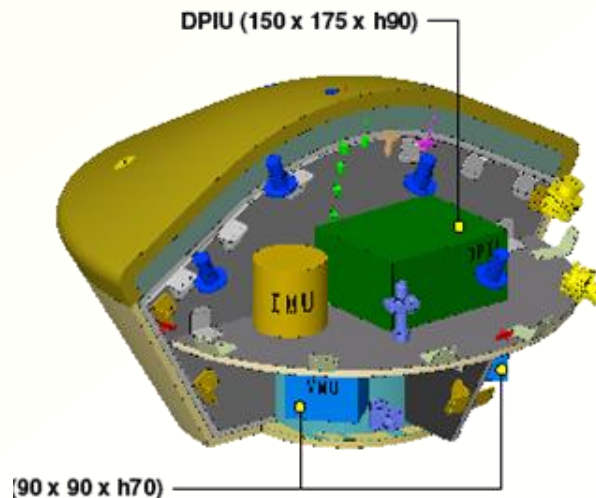


## System Highlights

- Highly constrained layout
- PICA like TPS
- 38 kN class booster element
- Need for miniaturised avionics
- Recoverable capsule (no TM)

### o/b instruments

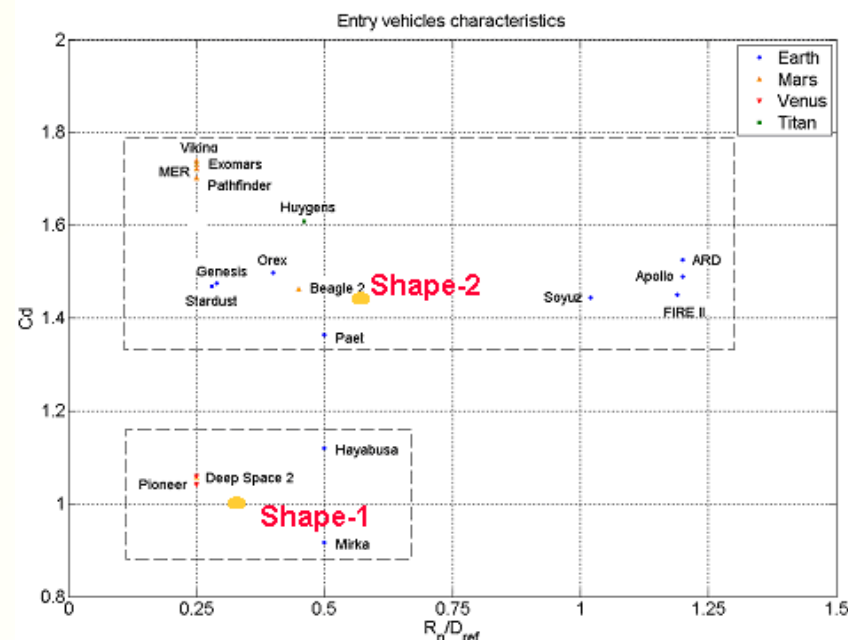
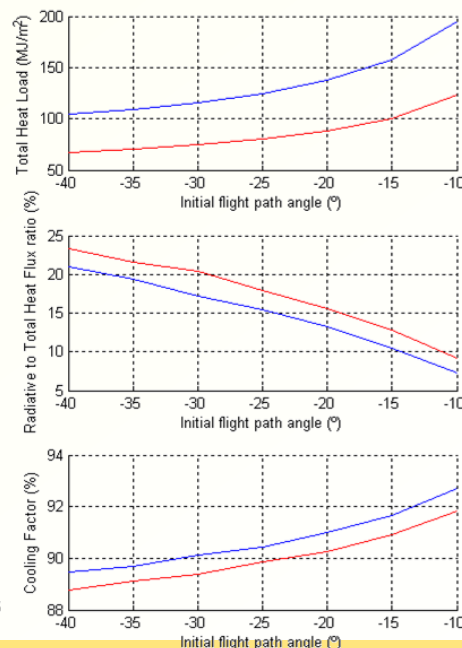
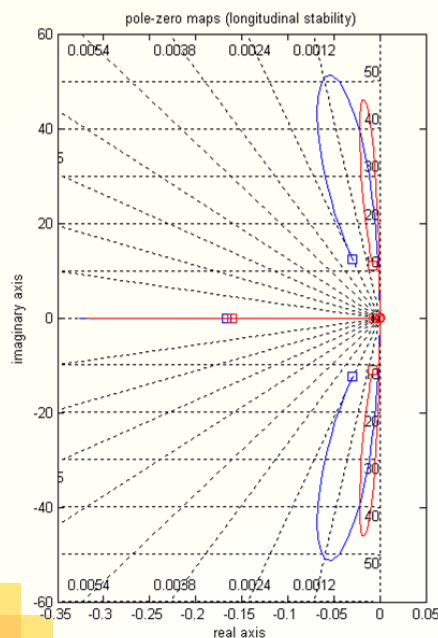
Spectrometer
Radiometer
Isotherm detector
Heat Flux / Pyrolysis plugs (HFP)
Thermocouples (TC)
Pressure ports
Flux /pressure probe (CFP)
IMU

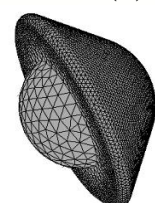
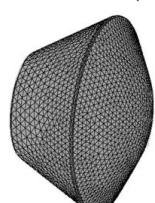


Credits:TASI

# RADFLIGHT: Flight Mechanics

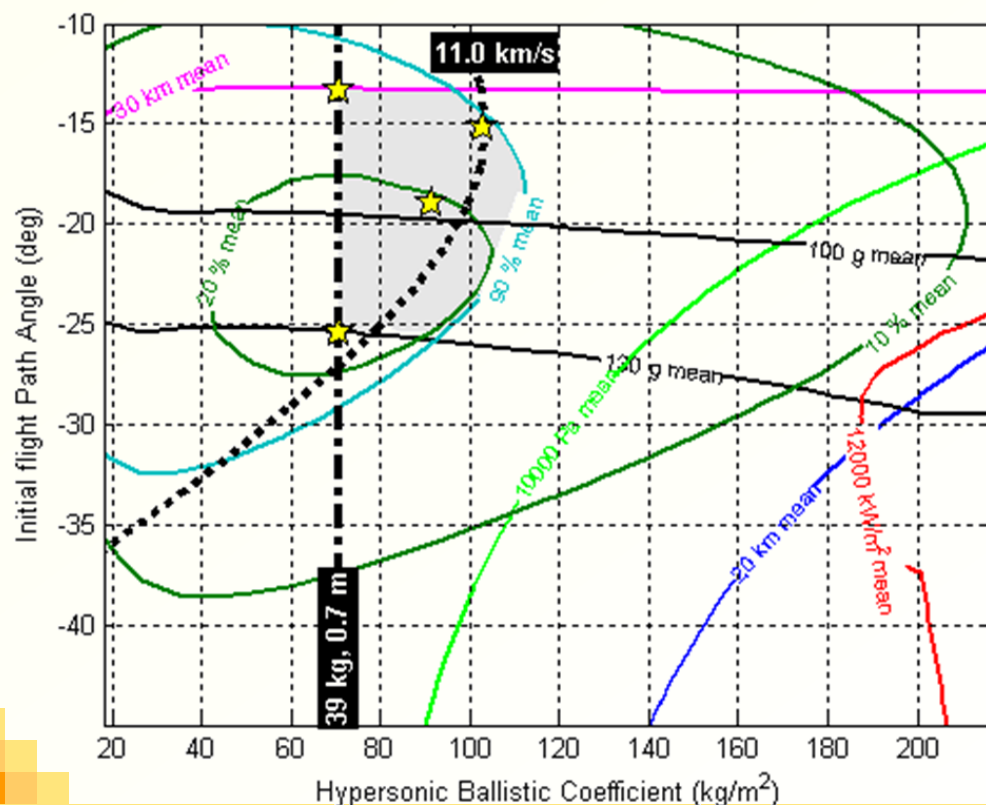
- **Two vehicles analyzed**
  - Static & Dynamic Stability
  - Entry Performances
  - Packaging
- **Stardust like shape selected**



	MSR (1)	Stardust (2)
Shape		
Half cone angle (°)	45	60
Nose radius (m)	0.23	0.40
Diameter (m)	0.7	0.7
Reference chord (m)	0.437	0.430
Reference drag coefficient	0.9964	1.4341

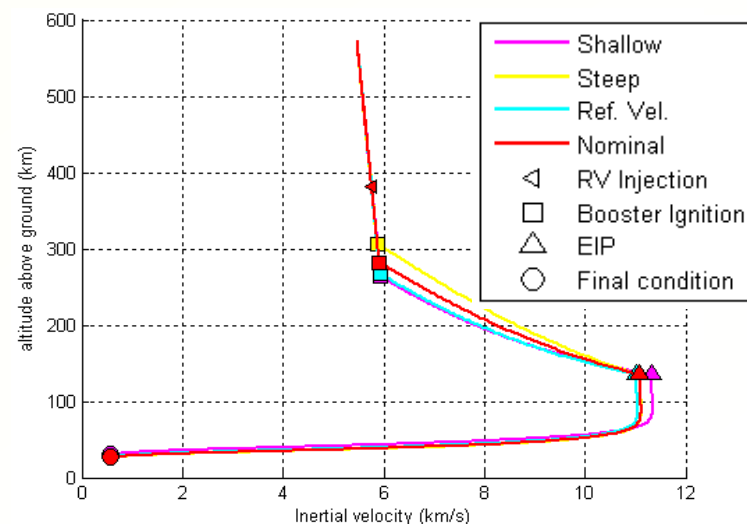
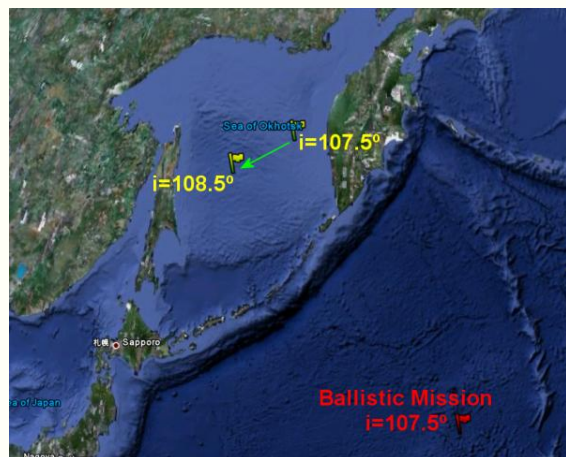
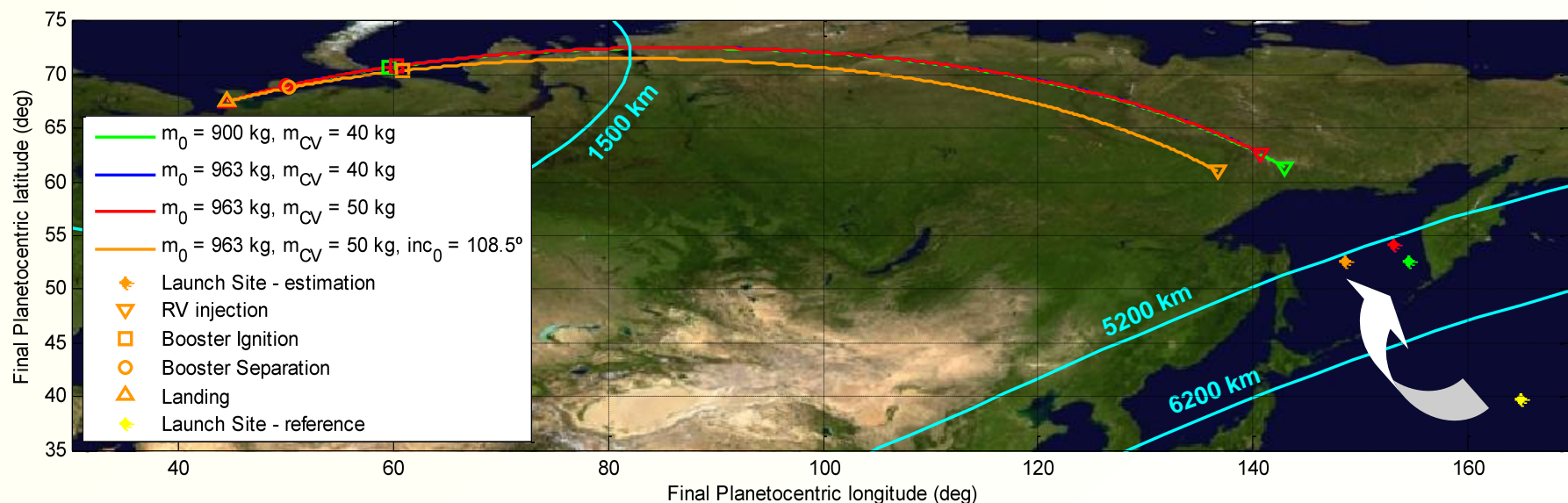


- **Coupled analysis from launch to parachute deployment**
  - Radiative + convective heat fluxes
  - Minimum level of radiation
  - Minimum level of convective – radiative coupling
- **Sizing and reference trajectories selected**



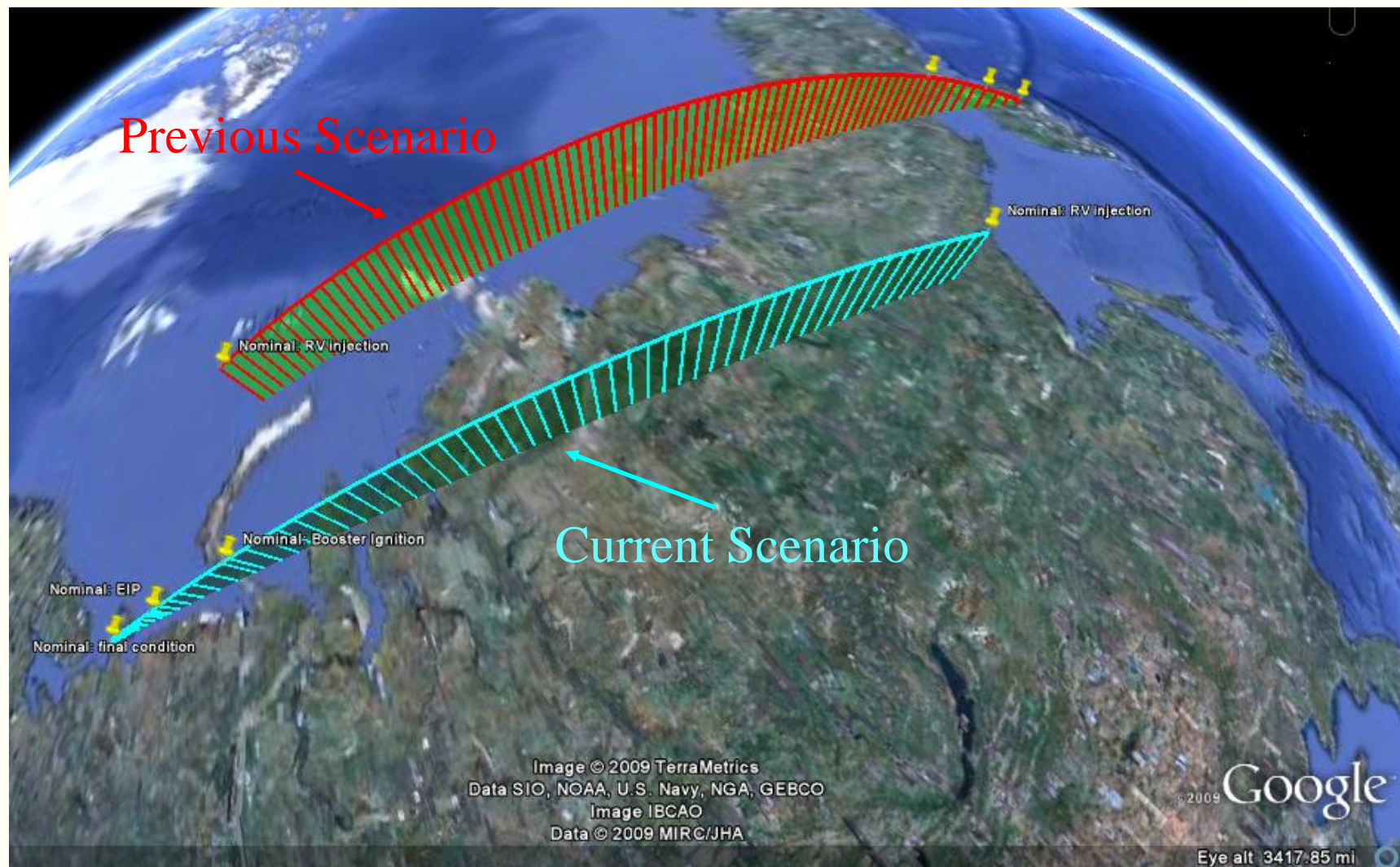
Case	Value		
RV INJECTION			
Injected mass (s)	900	963	963
Inclination (deg)	107.51	107.48	108.5
BOOSTER IGNITION			
Time from launch (s)	1073.23	1035.73	1035.6
Altitude (km)	262.16	269.49	269.42
Co-rotating velocity (m/s)	5932.27	5853.05	5860.44
EIP (100 km)			
Time from launch (s)	1136.65	1103.31	1103.19
Co-rotating velocity (m/s)	11064.55	11008.2	11015.44
Co-rotating fpa (deg)	-18.34	-18.21	-18.20
Mass (kg)	39.92	49.92	49.91
Max. Convective Heat Flux (MW/m <sup>2</sup> )	8.19	8.98	8.99
Max. Radiative Heat Flux (MW/m <sup>2</sup> )	1.61	1.92	1.94
Max. Total Heat Flux (MW/m <sup>2</sup> )	9.4	10.35	10.38
Final Total Heat Load (MJ/m <sup>2</sup> )	99.46	111.48	111.77
Min. Coupling factor (%)	89.37	89.26	89.21
Max. Total Load factor (g)	93.47	93.53	93.55
FINAL CONDITION			
Time from launch (s)	1177.61	1144.98	1144.88
Downrange from Launch (km)	5453.78	5260.22	5266.58

# RADFLIGHT: Trajectories





# RADFLIGHT: Trajectories



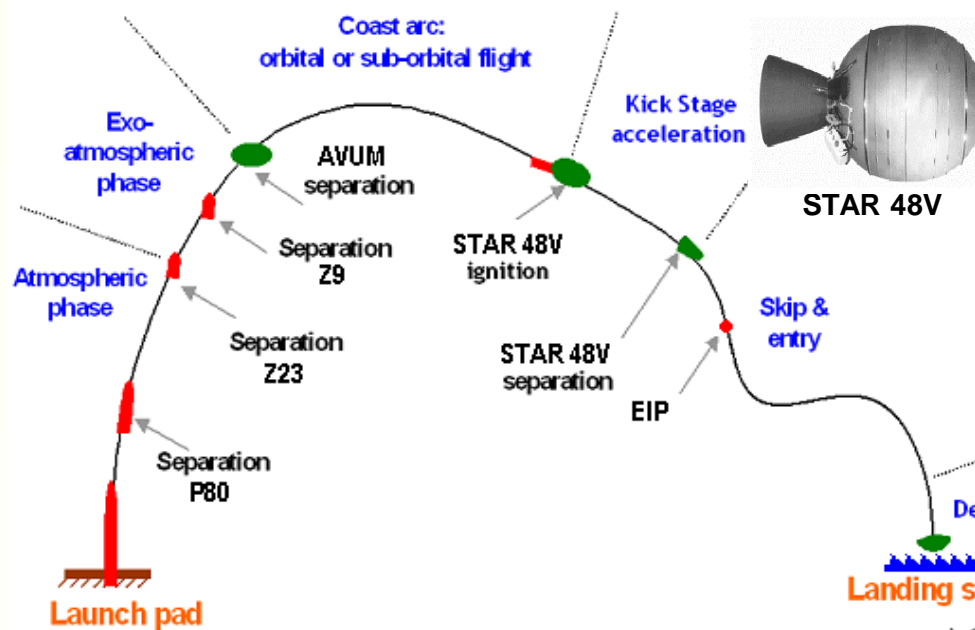
- Main mission objectives are:
  - Testing system level capabilities
  - Assessing a set of enabling technologies
    - GNC in skip entry mode
    - Entry, Descent & Landing
    - High-Energy TPS solutions
  - Collecting environmental data through on-board experiments
    - flowfield at super-orbital & suborbital speed
    - validation of predictive tools



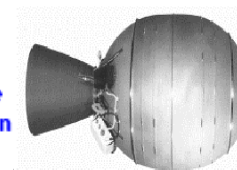
**Launcher**

**VEGA**  
Lift-off Mass ~140 t

(Back-up: DNEPR)

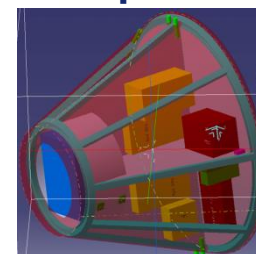


**Kick-Stage**  
(Solid, TVC)

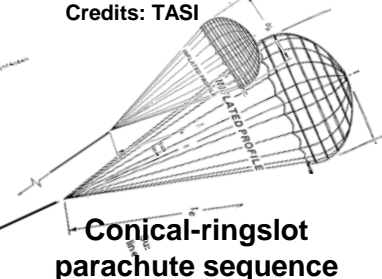


**STAR 48V**

**Earth Re-entry Capsule**



**VIKING 35% subscale**  
Credits: TASI

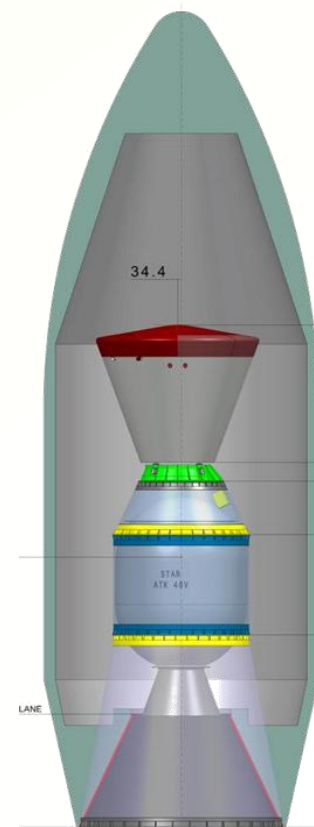
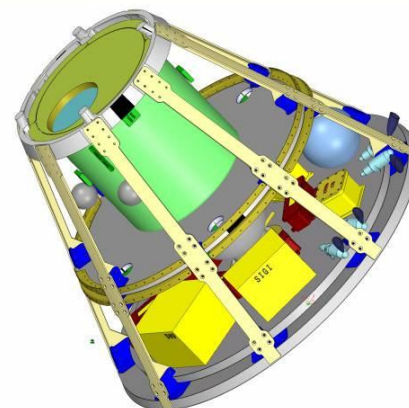
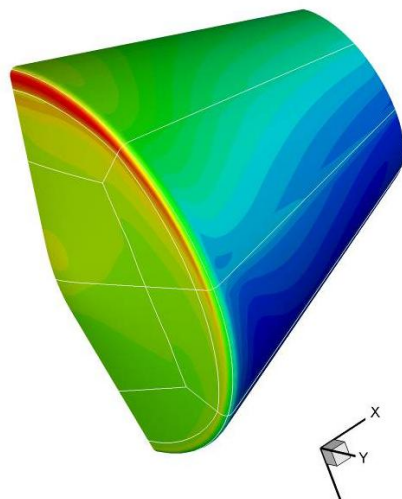


## System Highlights

- Adaptaion to Vega becomes a driving requirement
- From Biconic to Viking like shape
- PICA like TPS
- 78 kN class booster element
- Recoverable capsule
- Telemetry & o/b storage

### o/b instruments

Spectrometer
Radiometer
Isotherm detector
Heat Flux / Pyrolysis plugs (HFP)
Thermocouples (TC)
Pressure ports
Flux /pressure probe (CFP)
Magnetometer
IMU
GPS



Credits:TASI



## ERC: vehicle configuration and entry corridor (CoG, Trim, Spin, FPA)

Extended analysis to obtain flight properties required to successfully perform the mission

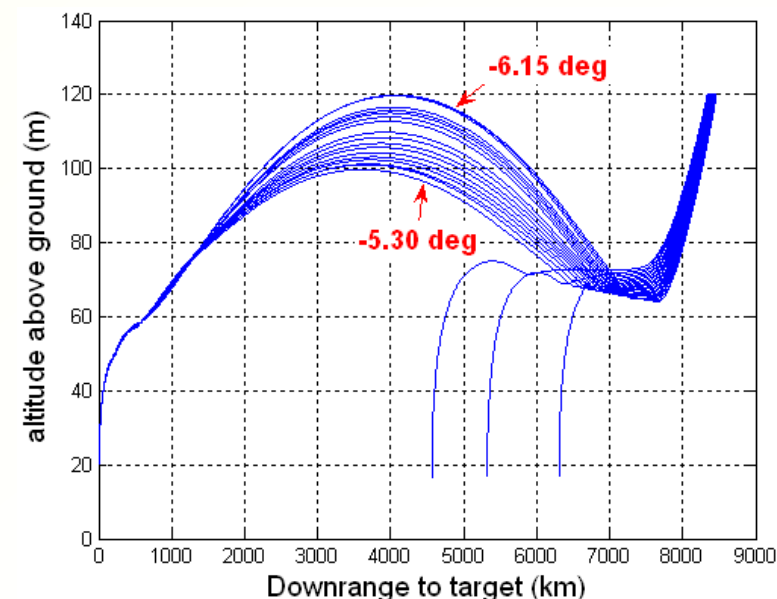
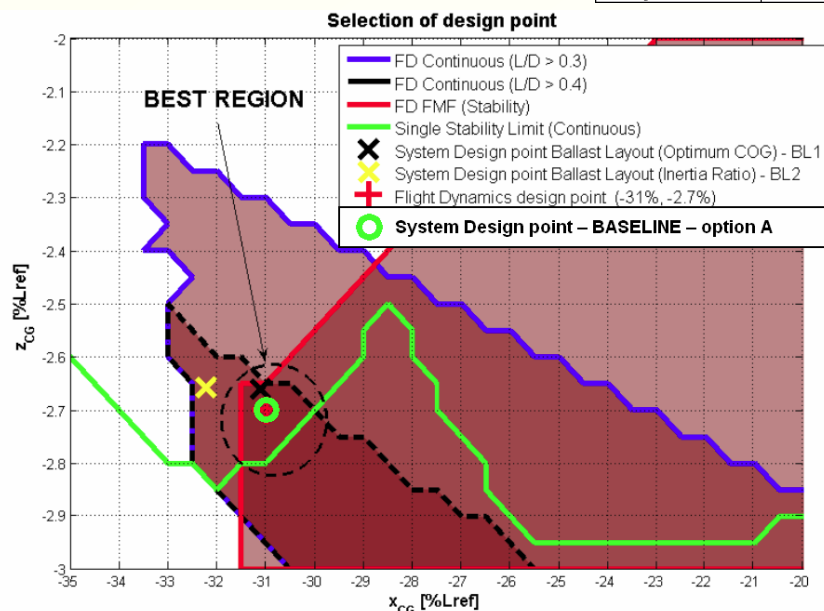
Trim, monostability, FQ  
and path constraints in  
Continuous and FMF

Capsule CoG Location  
and AOA Trim

System Design		
Property	Unit	Value
Xcog	mm (% Lref)	477.4 (31%)
Ycog	mm (% Lref)	0.44 (0.03%)
Zcog	mm (% Lref)	-41.5 (-2.7%)
Ixx	kg/m2	85.5
Iyy	kg/m2	94.5
Izz	kg/m2	91
Ixy	kg/m2	0.2
Ixz	kg/m2	-2.1
Iyz	kg/m2	0.1
Dyn. Unb.	deg	18.5

Common FPA Entry  
Corridor in ballistic and  
skip entry modes

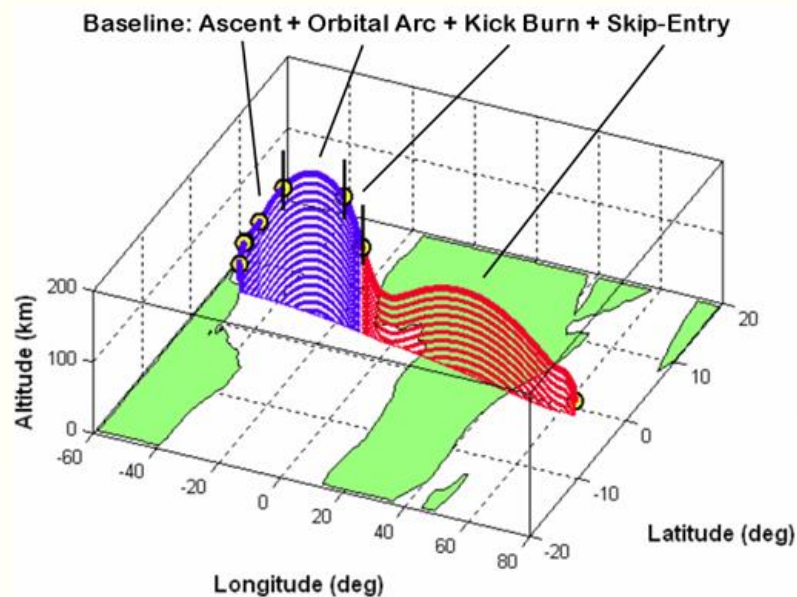
FPA at EIP (-5.8°), vehicle inertia  
properties (dynamic unbalance)  
and spin rate (3RPM) in ballistic



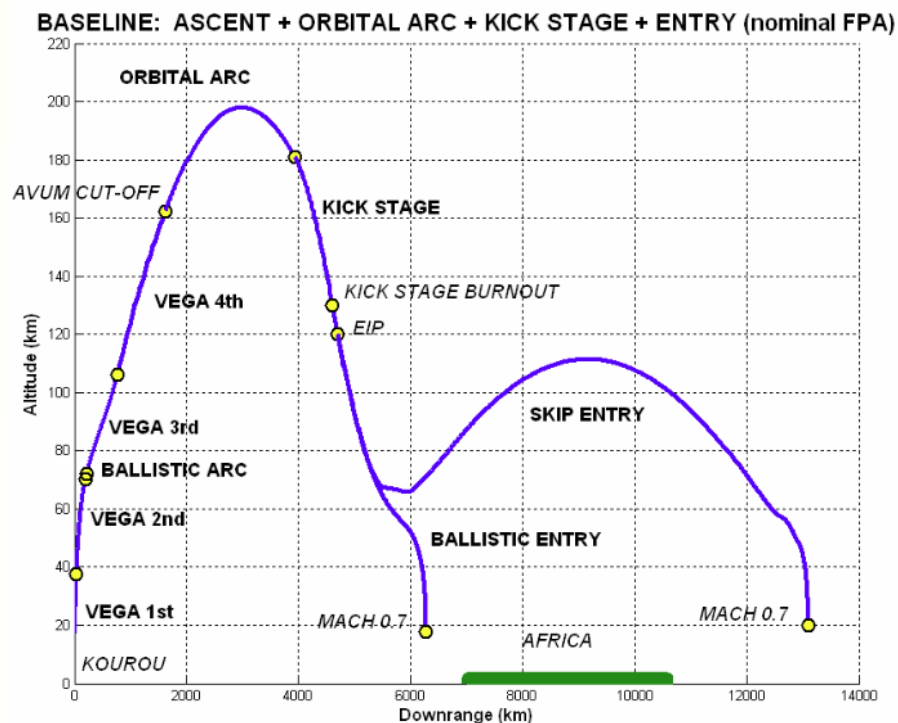


## End to end (launch to DRS) multi-phases optimization problem

- Objective: Achieve lunar entry conditions at EIP with VEGA + kick stage
- ERC CoG and Trim AOA from configuration analyses
- Optimum orbit at end of VEGA: 200 x -900 km
- FPA at EIP from entry corridors (skip + ballistic) =  $-5.8^\circ$ ,  $V_i = 10.9$  km/s
- Compatible with water landing (skip & ballistic) and safe debris



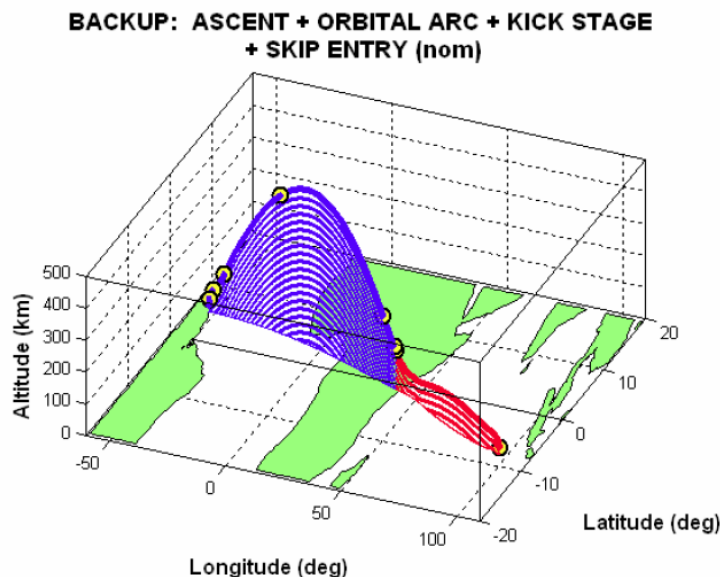
- AVUM partial loading allows 450 kg of mass margins (injected mass: 2742 kg)



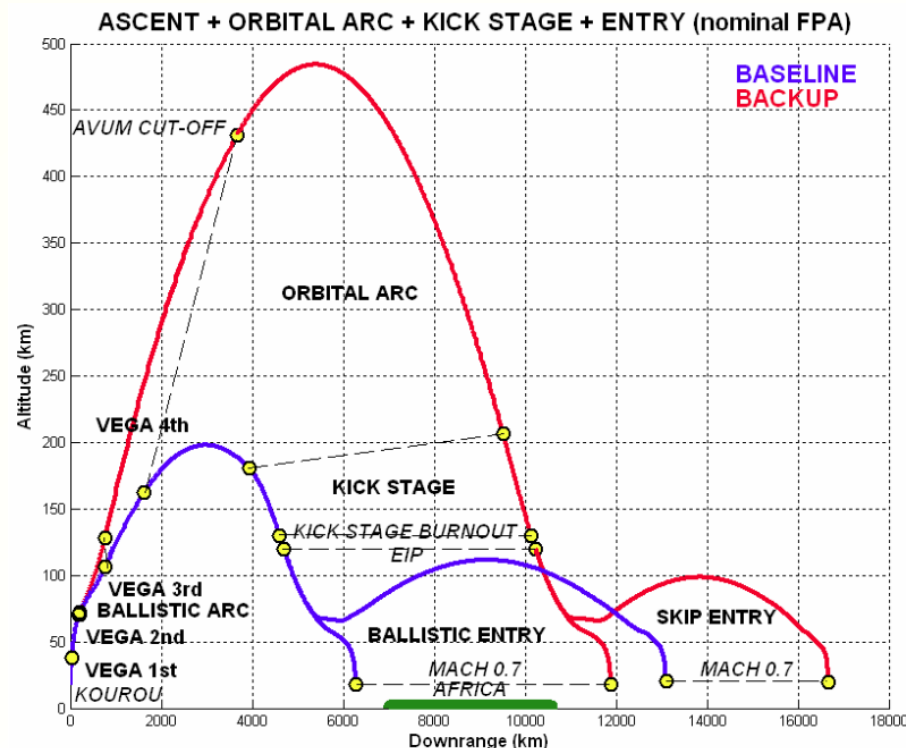
# BLAST: mission profile (backup)

## End to end (launch to DRS) multi-phases optimization problem

- Same Objective as Baseline
- Optimum orbit at end of VEGA: 500 x -900 km
- High Performance in terms of EIP velocity, more stressful on TPS and GNC
- High Safety (stage and debris fallout): water landing in the Indian Ocean
- No mass margin!  $\Rightarrow$  reduction of performances feasible keeping objectives

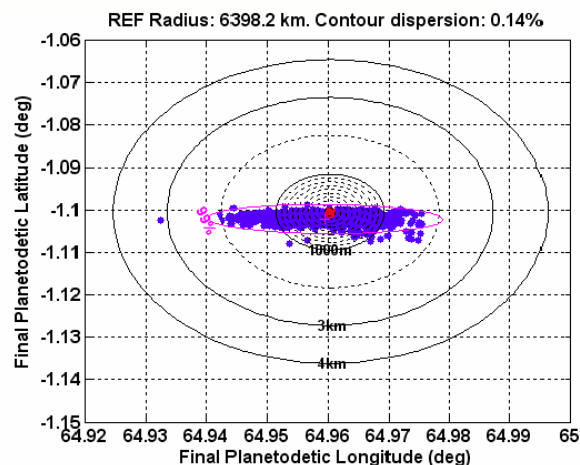
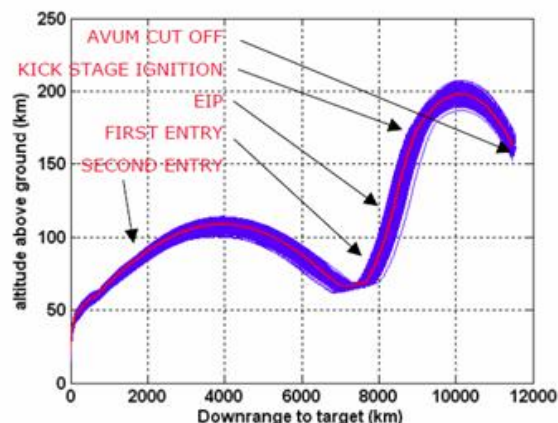


- Both AVUM and kick-stage partial loading (injected mass: 2616 kg)



# BLAST: GNC Results

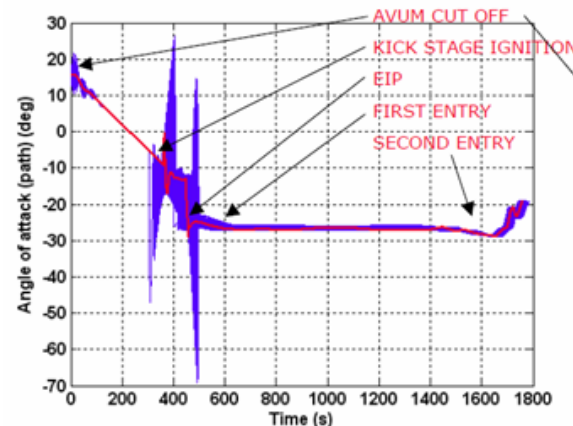
Altitude Profile VS Downrange to Target, significant dispersion at AVUM Cut-Off are taking into account



Dispersion at Drogue Deployment within 2km

Accuracy is adequate to obtain a max dispersion of 15km at Splashdown with winds

Trim stability is confirmed by AoA dispersion during endo-atmospheric flight at about  $\pm 1$  deg

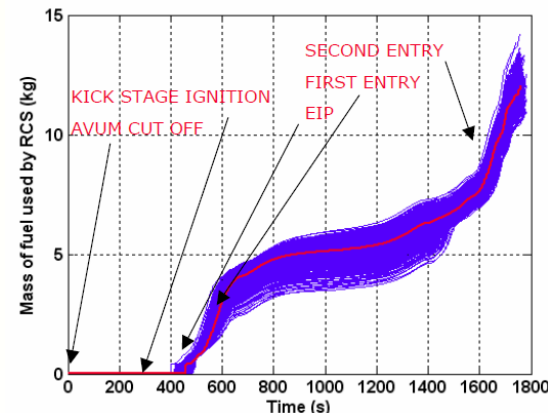


**FULL GNC simulation from Launcher separation to DRS deployment:**

- Guided acceleration phase
- TVC
- Skip entry guidance during entry
- 1000 shots 6DOF MC campaign

**Variability at EIP:**  
 $-5.80^\circ < \text{FPA} < -5.65^\circ$   
 $10.81 < \text{Inertial V} < 10.95 \text{ km/s}$

**The implemented guidance and control behaves well resulting in reduced dispersions at the main mission events**



**Negligible Fuel Consumption in Exo-Atmospheric Flight**  
**Fuel consumed for Bank Angle modulation during Endo-Atmospheric Flight**

## Main mission objectives are:

- Integrated System Demonstration
- Technology Experimentation (TPS, GNC, ...)
- Technology Validation (ATD, TPS, HS, GNC, ...)



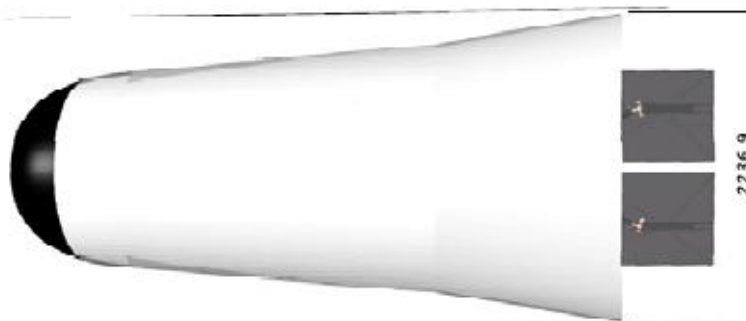
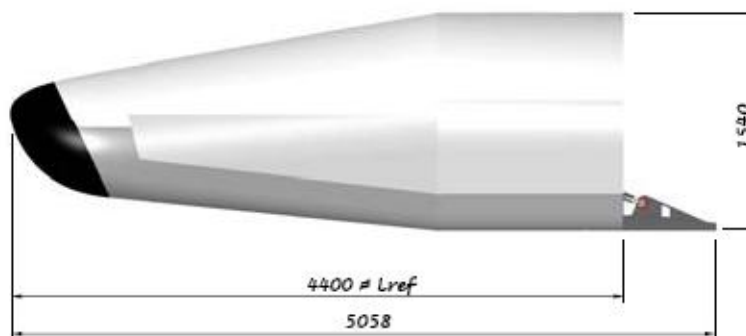


## System Highlights

- Combination of C/SiC and ablative material
- Recoverable vehicle
- Telemetry & o/b storage
- Active flaps & RCS

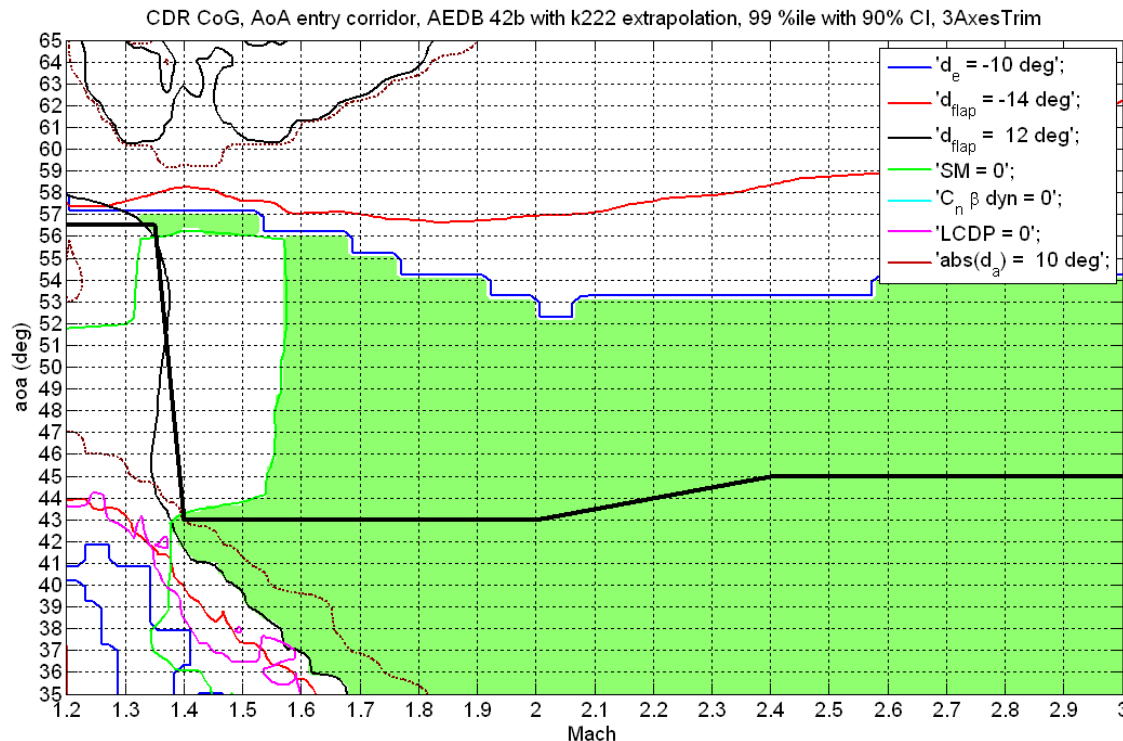
### o/b instruments

Thermocouples (TC)
Pressure ports
Strain gage
Displacement sensor
Infra red camera
3-axis accelerometer
IMU
GPS



## Vehicle Centre of Gravity (CoG) and Trim Line Optimization

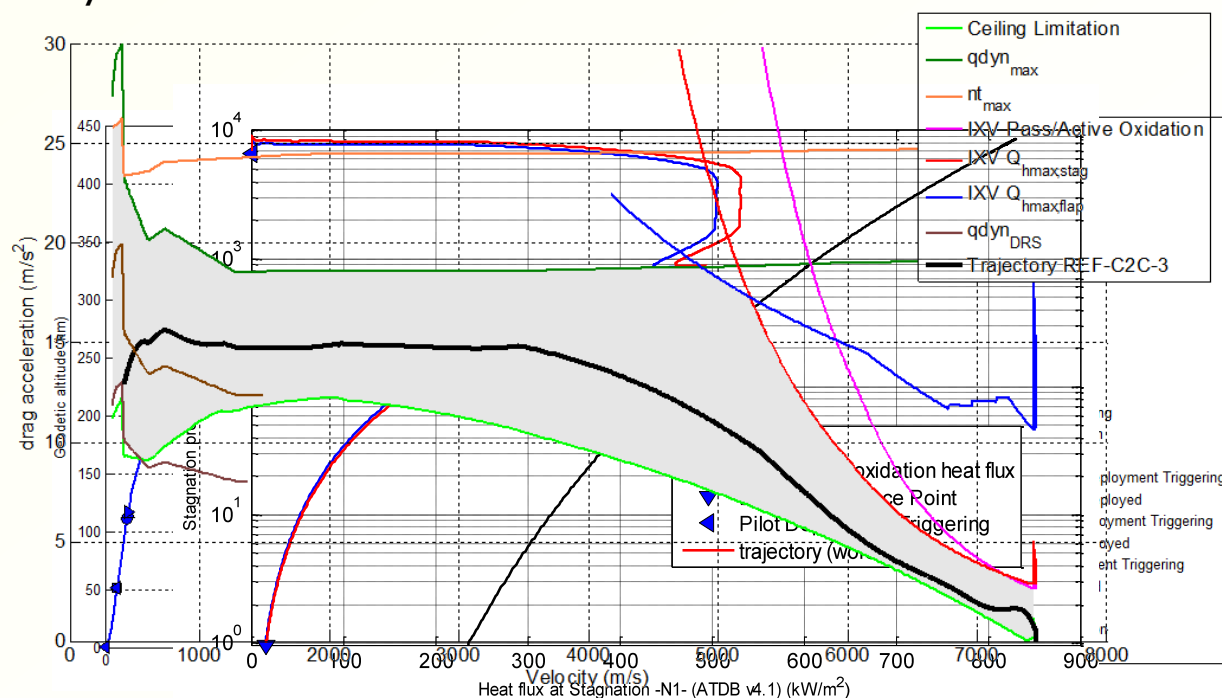
- Design solution for Rarefied, Hypersonic and Supersonic flow
- Selection driven by Trim (flaps limits) and Flying Qualities limits
- Robust against uncertainties and AEDB evolutions
- Considers uncertainties, GNC and DRS needs, coupling
- Requirement to AEBB and flap range derived





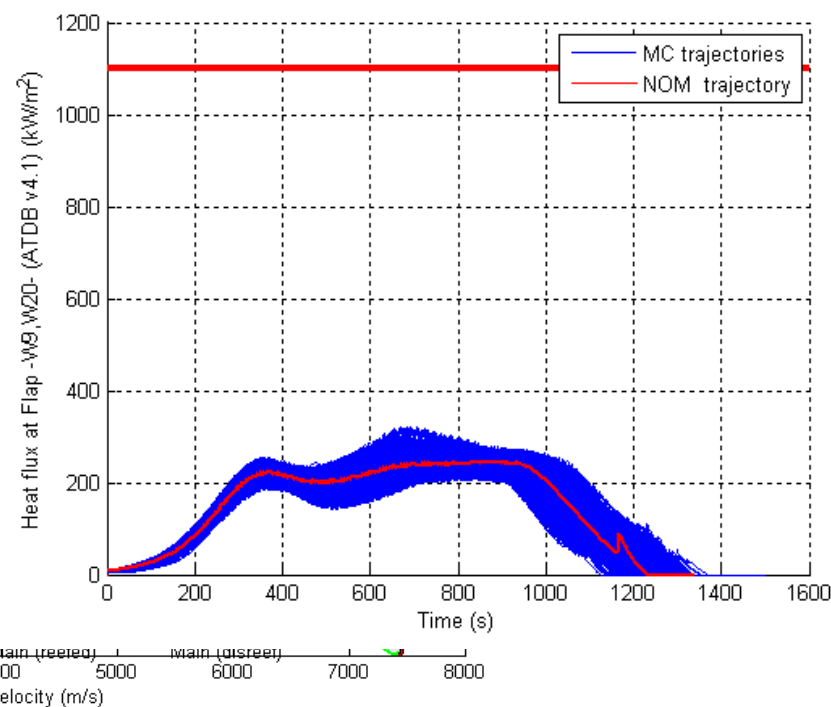
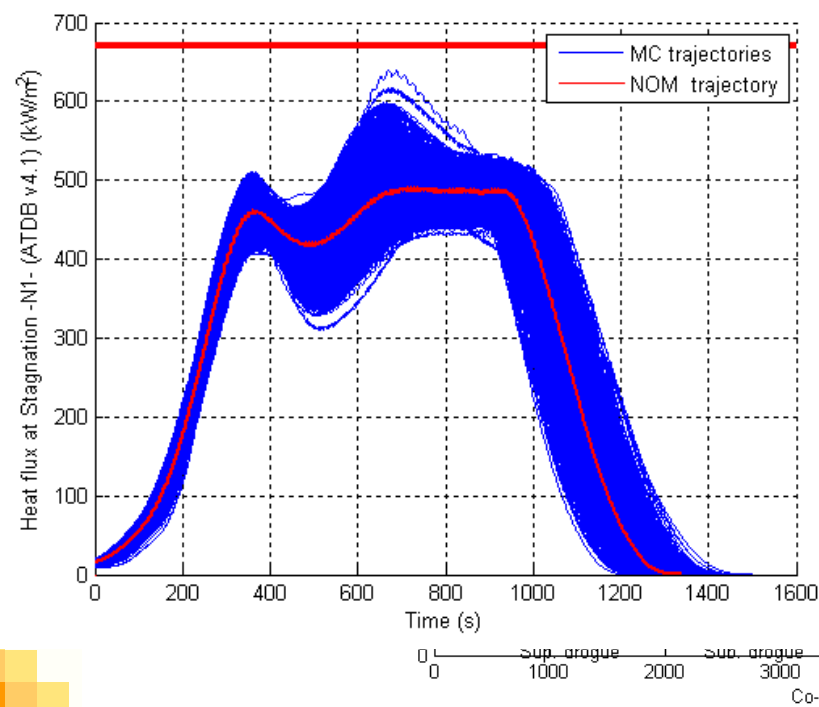
## Major Characteristics

- Single End-2-End Optimisation (SGRA code)
- Accurate ATD predictions (ATDB) ensures automatic ATD verification
- Corridor with margins for GNC
- Safety constraints respected
- Injection Point validated by Launcher Authority
- Compatible with large injection dispersions
- High fidelity environmental models

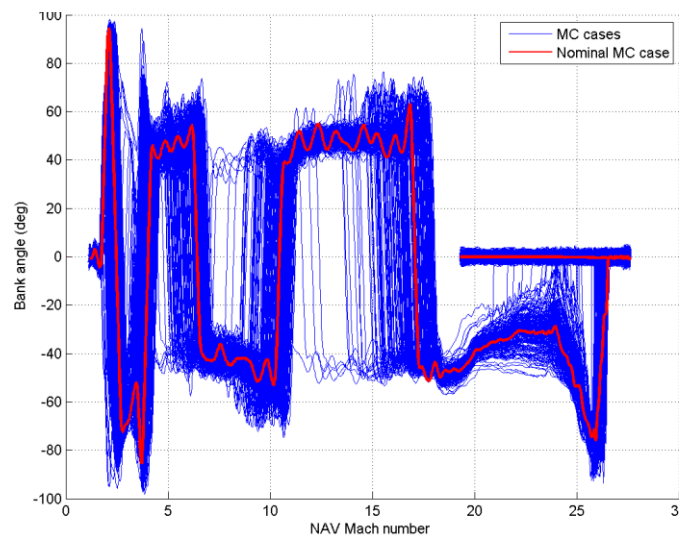
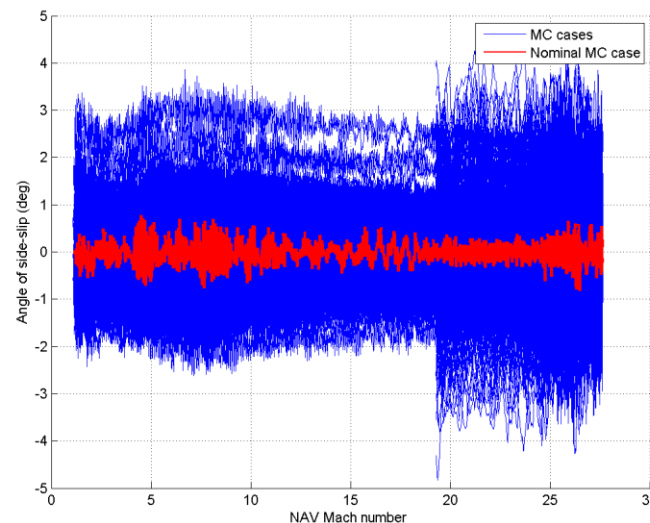
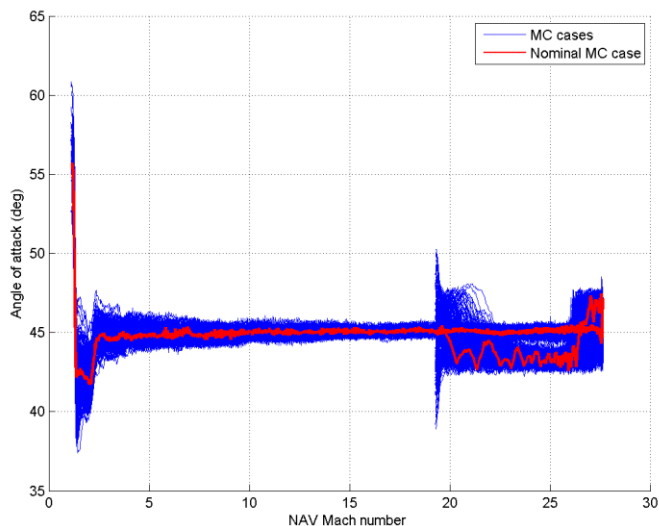


## Major Characteristics

- Orbital – Entry – Descent Phases
- 3DOF and 6DOF GNC Close Loop simulations conducted
- Compliance of all constrains, in particular ATD, with further margins
- Accurate ATD prediction (integrated ATDB Tool)
- Guidance successfully compensates large EIP deviations ( $> 1400$  km)
- Small dispersions at landing

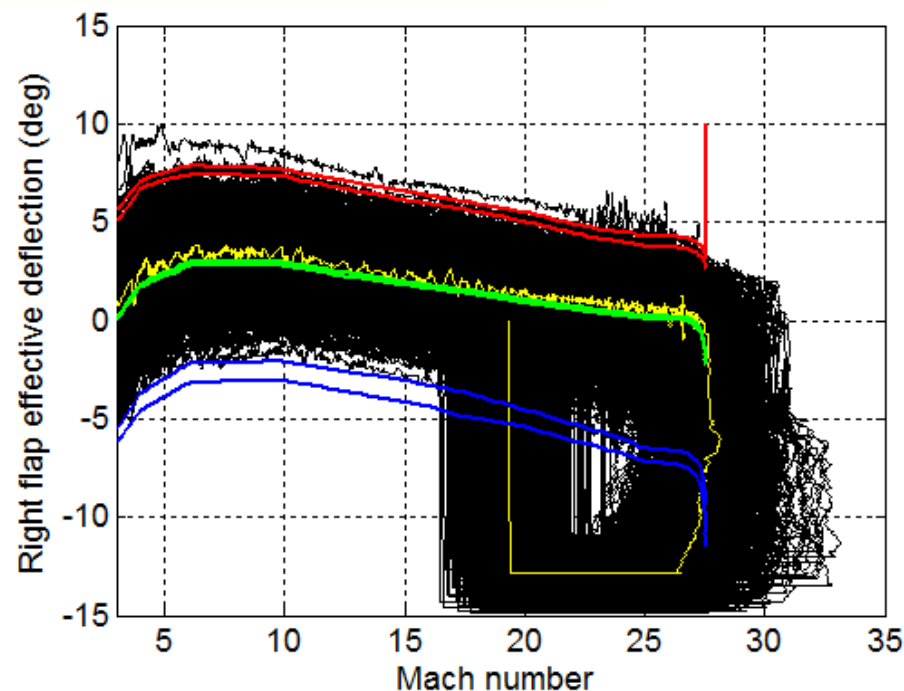
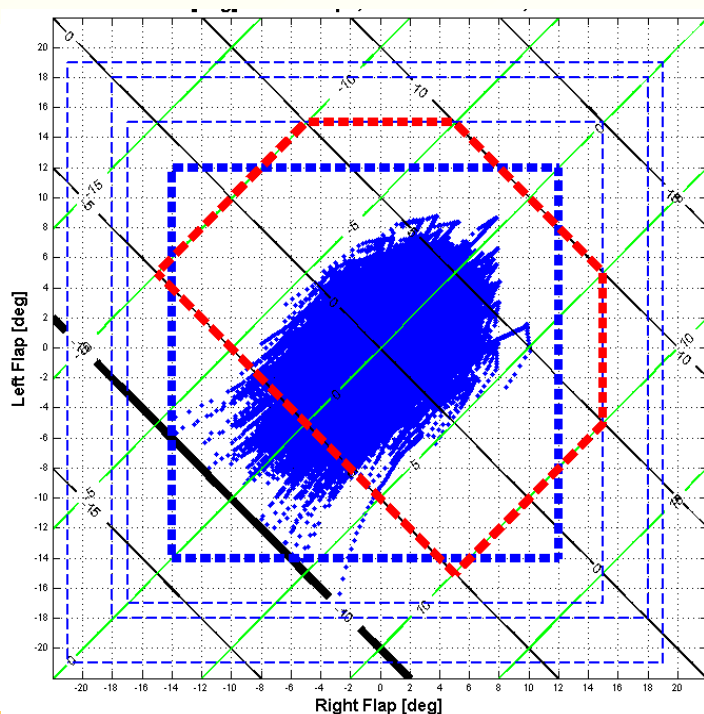


# IXV: GNC performances

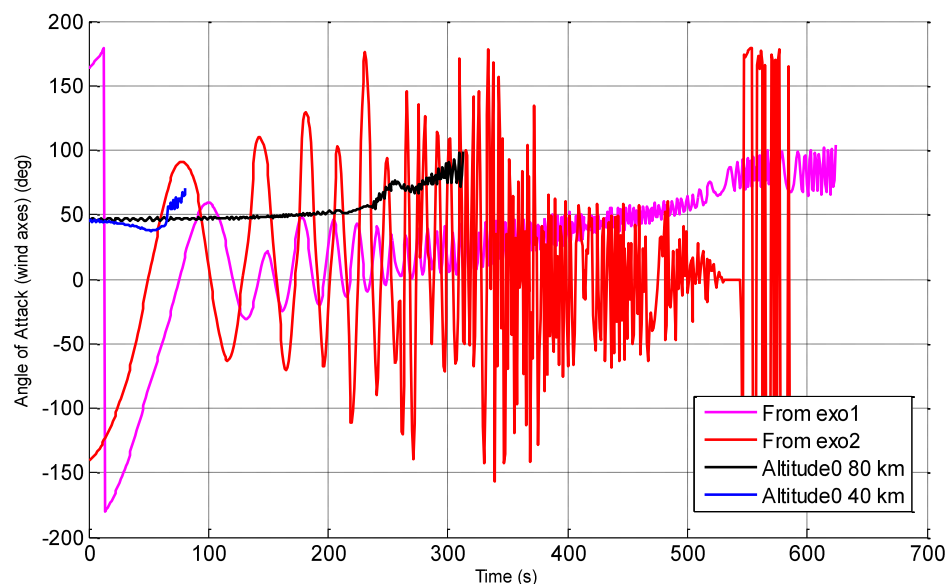
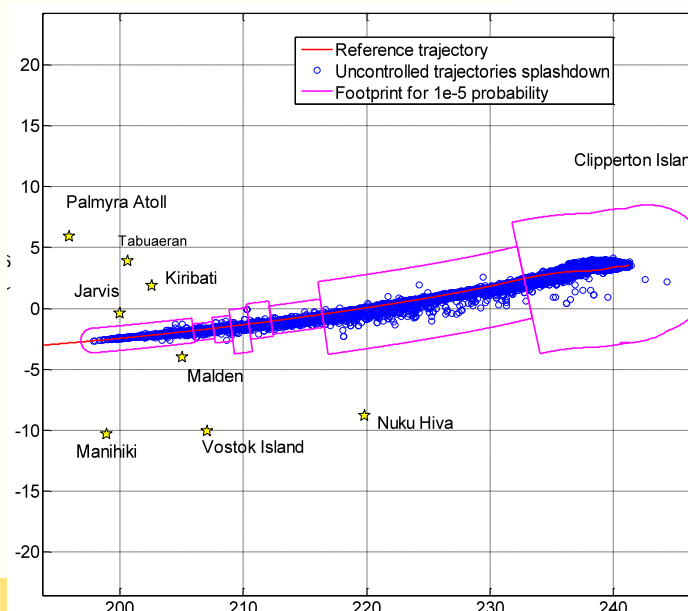


## Monte Carlo campaign for verification of performances

- Uncertainties on Environment, State, MCI, GNC allocation
- Detailed validation of design solution (CoG and Trim) and margins: trim, FQ, couplings
- Cross validation with 6DOF Close Loop GNC Monte Carlo
- Predited AoA corridor performances verified
- Good FQ down to end of the DRS window



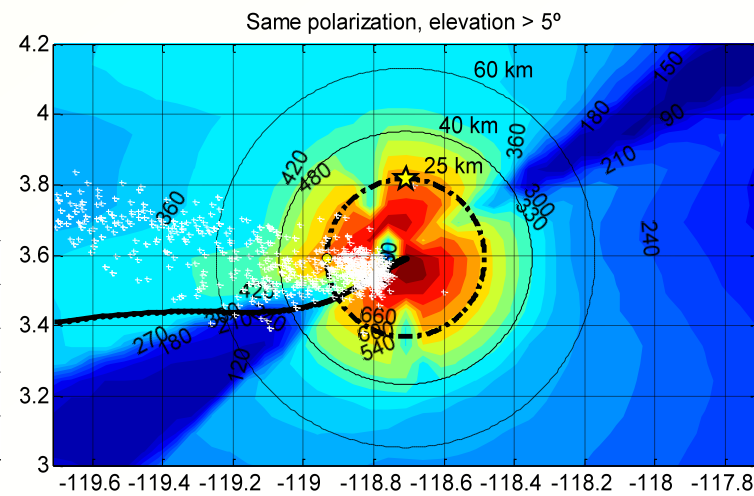
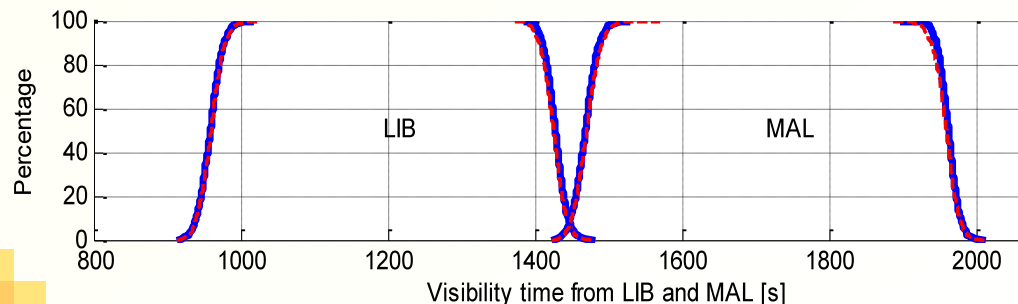
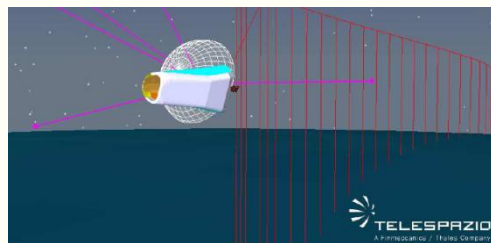
- **Non nominal footprint in case of failure**
- **Failure case:**  
GNC failure at any moment of the flight from AVUM separation to DRS triggering
- **Based on 6DOF Open Loop Monte Carlo simulation**
  - Considers all uncertainties: dispersion in flight conditions, aerodynamics, environment, MCI...
- **No islands (habited or inhabited within the footprint)**



## Geometric Connections between IXV and Ground Segment

- Fixed Stations: Performances evaluation and network selection
- Mobile Stations: Performances optimization (best locations)
  - Station on island (around EIP)
  - Station on Recovery Ship (Descent)
- Analyses include antennas masks for two IXV antennas polarizations
- Trajectory and attitude dispersion from Separation to splashdown

## Geometric Connections between IXV and GPS





- **A summary of the Mission Analysis and Flight Mechanics of Earth Experimental missions relevant to exploration has been presented**
- **They are key contributors to the exploration in terms of knowledge acquisition, technology readiness and design processes consolidation.**
- **Same Flight Mechanics and Mission Design approach as in Exomars EDM 2016 Mission design have been applied, tailored to the Phase of design**
- **End to End applied not only for mission performance evaluation but during mission design has been proven as a key feature to increase reliability and reduce design loops**
- **Therefore, those Earth mission are not only relevant for the “visible” technological products (h/w) , like TPS or GNC systems, but also for the maturation of the “hidden” ones (paper) like Mission Analysis and Flight Mechanics**



# Thank you!

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